

Issued by the Dixie National Forest yesterday. Note media contacts below.

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## **FIRE CREWS IMPROVE FUEL BREAKS AROUND PINE VALLEY**

ST. GEORGE, Utah – Fire crews are removing brush and ladder fuels from fuel breaks in the Pine Valley area as part of the Dammeron Fire containment plan adopted by the Dixie National Forest. Crews are also improving fuel breaks along trails in the Pine Valley Recreation Area.

The fuel breaks will provide crews a defensible fire line in the event the Dammeron Fire begins to burn more actively and approach the community.

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and Lands is providing information to homeowners in the community about how to make their homes and property more defensible.

Tim Sexton, commander of the Great Basin Incident Management Team managing the fire, said, “We now have the Dammeron Fire 88 percent contained. The only area not within containment lines is the Pine Valley Wilderness.”

Sexton said that, given the location of the fire, the arrangement and type of fuels in the area, and moisture levels at the higher elevations, the odds of the Dammeron Fire coming out of the wilderness area are small.

“However, the Dixie National Forest wanted to ensure that Pine Valley could be properly defended,” Sexton said. “Thus, firefighters are improving the fuel breaks before we leave.”

Fire crews also continue to monitor and patrol the lightning-caused fires in the area.

“Smoke that has been seen from Highway 18 is being generated by islands of unburned vegetation and downed logs that did not burn earlier,” Sexton said. “They can be expected to burn for the next several weeks, and should not be cause for alarm.”

Sexton's Type 1 incident management team is currently downsizing and demobilizing resources, and will be transitioning to a smaller team over the weekend. This smaller team will continue to manage the existing fires in the area and respond to any new wildland fires that might develop.

"Local residents share my sentiments that this team has done an excellent job in handling these fires," said Bevan Killpack, district ranger for the Pine Valley Ranger District.

For further information about the Dammeron Fire, contact the Dixie National Forest at (435) 865-3700, or visit the forest's web site at [www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie).  
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